

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 17, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-37 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 4, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, and 31-34 have been amended. The claims have been amended for clarification. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter. Furthermore, Applicants submit that because the claims have merely been amended for clarification, the claims, as amended, are entitled to a full range of equivalents.

Summary of Examiner Interview

A telephonic interview with the examiner was conducted on the 20th of September, 2005. The rejection of claims 4, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 31, 32 and 34 were discussed. Applicant agreed to amend claims 4, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 31, 32 and 34 to rephrase the conditional language. Examiner agreed that the claim amendments would place the claims in condition for allowance. Thus, the claims have been amended as agreed. Accordingly, Applicants believe the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance, and allowance of the same is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and, therefore, the claims are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

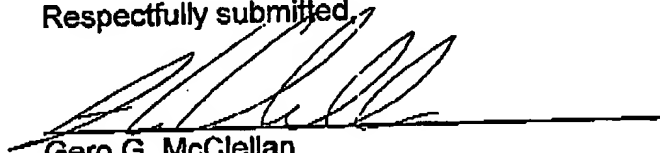
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 31, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As described above, Applicant and the Examiner agreed that the rejection is moot in light of the present amendments. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants